

Our Year's Work

More than a million dollars a week was returned to rural Delaware.

Housing	\$25,463,474
Utilities	\$27,540,916
Business	\$217,000
Community Facilities	\$737,169
Agriculture	\$22,000
Total	\$53,980,559

More than a half a million dollars a day was returned to rural Maryland.

Housing	\$60,850,361
Utilities	\$115,950,882
Business	\$4,235,000
Community Facilities	\$3,514,162
Agriculture	\$719,553
Total	\$185,269,958

2006 Across Delaware and Maryland

4 projects funded that support first responders.

227 Multi-Family Housing complexes that provide over 6,990 rental apartment units.

21,892 new electric cooperative members to be served by 1,097 miles of new distribution line.

110 homes repaired to remove health and safety hazards and to make homes accessible for people with disabilities.

421 families or individuals became homeowners.

372 jobs created or saved.

18,825 homes and businesses touched by improved central water and wastewater systems.

62 dedicated USDA Rural Development employees delivering services to rural Delaware and Maryland.



Thomas C. Dorr, Under Secretary for USDA Rural Development at the opening of one of our hallmark projects – Mid-Atlantic Biodiesel, Inc. in Clayton, DE.

USDA Rural Development Mission Statement

"To increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for all rural Americans."

Housing

Housing programs give low and moderate-income people opportunities to own homes and make them safe and sanitary with loans, loan guarantees and grants. Financing is also available to developers for affordable rental housing that serves families, the elderly and people with disabilities.

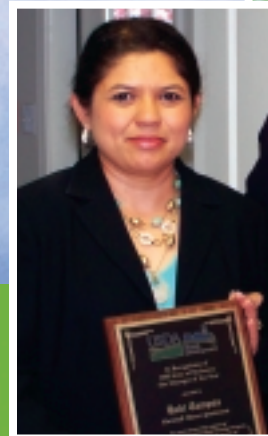


Delmar – The key to homeownership.

New homeowners, the Adkins family.



Milford – Senior housing complex, site manager of the year – Rubi Campos



Utilities

We have many different programs that range from broadband access to distance learning and telemedicine, but our most popular work is in the environmental programs --- Water and waste programs help rural communities afford safe drinking water and dependable waste disposal. Public entities and non-profit organizations can receive loans, loan guarantees and grants to build, repair and improve public water systems. Eligible projects include drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste and storm drainage.



Serving the residents and protecting the environment. Centralized wastewater systems – Kitts Hummock and Loch Lynn Heights.



Princess Anne – At the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), a pilot project to test new components for poultry houses.



Woodside - Support for Delaware Fun on the Farm locations.



Mt. Airy – Congressman Roscoe Bartlett speaks with owners of Black Ankle Vineyards.



Business

Business programs provide financial backing and technical assistance to stimulate rural economies. Loan guarantees and grants are available to businesses, public bodies, nonprofit organizations, farmers, and cooperatives to finance business related activities that save or create jobs, add value to agricultural products and develop alternative energy.

Community Facilities

Community programs offer financing and grants for essential community facilities for public use. Public bodies and nonprofit organizations can use the funds to construct, expand or improve facilities that provide health care, education, public safety and public services.



Congressman Mike Castle and Senator Tom Carper pay a visit to the Laurel library. Funding was provided to help purchase furniture and equipment for the library expansion project.



Congressman Wayne Gilchrest hands over the keys to Cambridge Police Chief, Ken Malik.



Committed to the future of rural communities.



A Heart for Rural America

For me, Rural America will always have a special place in my heart; it is a place that I was born and raised and continue to call home and have the privilege to serve. As you will see in this year's report, USDA Rural Development's most important work is to serve the people and communities in the heart of America.....Rural America, and for us that is rural Delaware and rural Maryland.



George W. Bush,
President of the
United States

"America is a great force for freedom and prosperity. Yet our greatness is not measured in power of luxuries, but by who we are and how we treat one another. So we strive to be a compassionate, decent, hopeful society."

Excerpt from the President's State of the Union Address; January 31, 2006.



Mike Johanns,
Secretary of
Agriculture

"We remain committed to creating an environment where future generations will not only live, but thrive in rural America."



Thomas C. Dorr,
Under Secretary
for USDA Rural
Development

"Rural Development is leading the way to a bright new future for Americans who choose to live in our rural communities and on our farms."

We have over 40 programs that are aimed at affordable housing opportunities, business development, essential community facilities and the environment. In Fiscal Year 2006, USDA Rural Development returned over \$239 million of the people's money to the bi-state area that has helped rural residents across the two states with homeownership, home repair, rental housing, improved centralized systems for water and wastewater, electricity, community facilities and business development – on and off the farm.

When we compare today to 100 years ago, I think that you will agree that most Americans do not know anyone living on a farm. Through our Business Programs, particularly the Value-Added Producer Grant Program and the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Program, we have the ability to reverse that trend. In FY 2006 we provided over \$740,000 in grant funds to support four projects that will provide a boost to the agriculture community. Those grant funds are helping Delaware's agritourism operations and a winery in Western Maryland, strengthening poultry operations on the Eastern Shore and exploring a mobile livestock slaughtering unit for farmers in Southern Maryland. The year 2006 also marks the opening of one of our hallmark projects – "Mid-Atlantic Biodiesel, Inc." located in Clayton, Delaware. Ag-based energy like biodiesel is one of our nation's most promising alternative fuel sources and Rural Development is pleased to be a partner in this effort.

My heartfelt thanks to the great team of USDA Rural Development employees in Delaware and Maryland. With the support of this dedicated staff, the Delaware and Maryland Congressional delegation, and our many partners, we are committed to the future of rural communities. Together we are working to bring back home the people's money for programs that support housing, agriculture, businesses, community facilities and infrastructure.

Let us know how we can serve you.
Please contact me at
marlene.elliott@de.usda.gov
or (302) 857-3580.

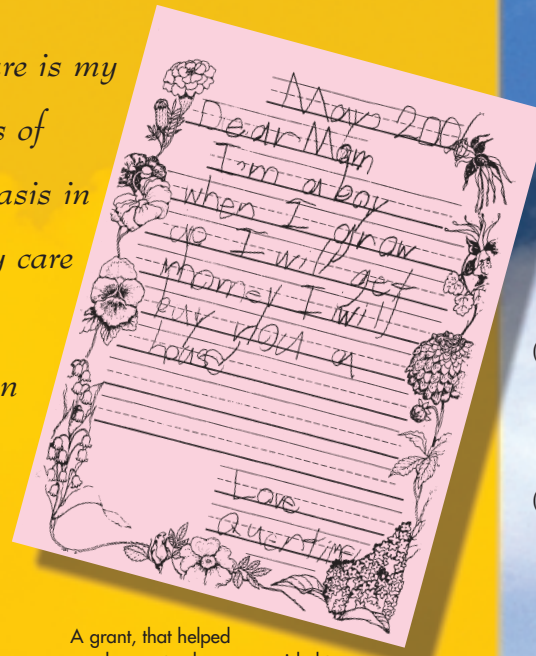
Warmest regards,

Marlene B. Elliott
State Director
Delaware and Maryland



Committed to the future of rural communities.

*"One of the things that always
strengthens my belief in our future is my
understanding of how many acts of
kindness take place on a daily basis in
the United States...People really care
about the future of our country;
millions of our citizens weep when
they know somebody hurts...I
thank you for really
strengthening the heart of the
United States of America."*



A grant, that helped purchase a truck, was provided to Meeting Ground, Inc. - a faith-based organization that provides shelter for the homeless. While touring the shelter a homemade Mother's Day card was proudly displayed on a dresser in one of the rooms. Inside the folded pink construction paper, was the message
"...when I grow up I will get money. I will buy you a house."

President George W. Bush

Excerpt from the President's Speech at the Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Conference, Washington, D.C. – March 9, 2006.

For more information on this report, contact:

Marlene B. Elliott, State Director
USDA Rural Development
1221 College Park Drive, Suite 200 Dover, Delaware 19904

Telephone: (302) 857-3580 Fax: (302) 857-3640
Email: marlene.elliott@de.usda.gov TDD/TTY (302) 857-3585

The Fiscal Year of the United States Department of Agriculture runs from October 1 to September 30.

For more information on the programs available through USDA Rural Development, please visit our webpage at: www.rurdev.usda.gov



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STATE OFFICE (For both Delaware and Maryland)

1221 College Park Drive, Suite 200
Dover, DE 19904
(302) 857-3580 Fax: (302) 857-3640
State Director, Marlene B. Elliott

AREA OFFICE (For both Delaware and Maryland)

1260 Maryland Avenue, Suite 100
Hagerstown, MD 21740
(301) 797-0500 Ext. 5, Fax: (301) 739-4775

LOCAL OFFICES (Delaware and Maryland)

Denton, MD
640 Legion Road, Suite 1
Denton, MD 21629
(410) 479-1202 Ext. 4, Fax: (410) 479-2069

Dover, DE
800 Bay Road, Suite 2
Dover, DE 19901
(302) 741-2600 Ext. 4, Fax: (302) 741-0347

Elkton, MD
105 Chesapeake Blvd., Suite B-4
Elkton, MD 21921
(410) 398-4411 Ext. 4, Fax: (410) 392-6530

Georgetown, DE
21315 Berlin Road, Unit 2
Georgetown, DE 19947
(302) 856-3990 Ext. 4, Fax: (302) 856-4381

Hagerstown, MD
1260 Maryland Avenue, Suite 105
Hagerstown, MD 21740
(301) 797-0500 Ext. 4, Fax: (301) 714-0746

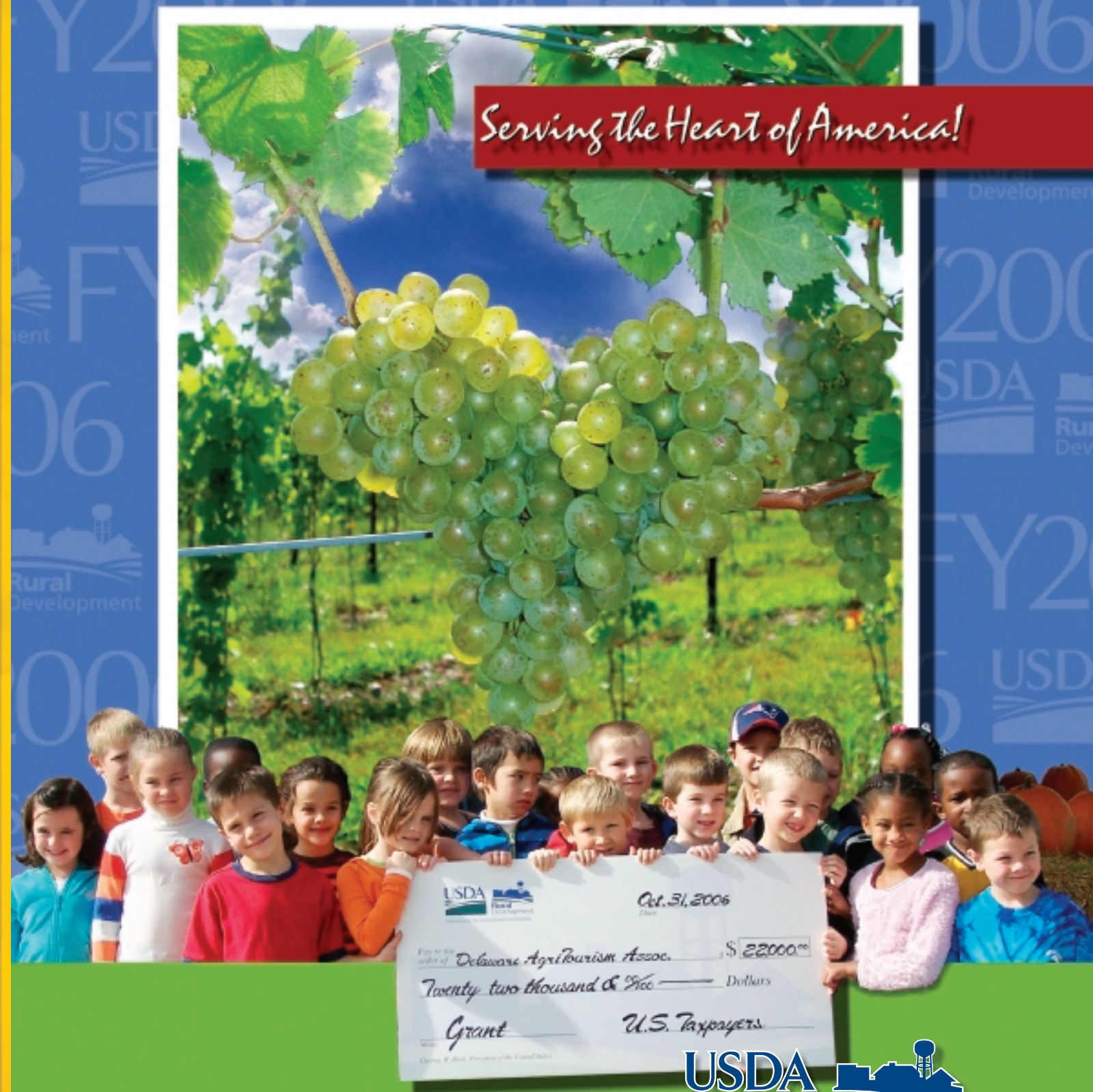
Mt. Lake Park, MD
1916 Maryland Highway, Suite D
Mt. Lake Park, MD 21550
(301) 334-6972 Fax: (301) 334-6952

Prince Frederick, MD
65 Duke Street, Suite 112
P.O. Box 489
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
(410) 535-1521 Ext. 4, Fax: (410) 535-0591

Snow Hill, MD
304 Commerce Street, Suite B
Snow Hill, MD 21863
(410) 632-0616 Ext. 4, Fax: (410) 632-2732

www.rurdev.usda.gov

Grape cluster photo on cover – Sara O'Herron - Black Ankle Vineyards, Mt. Airy, MD



Committed to the future of rural communities.



Delaware & Maryland